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*Persei* as a guiding star. The plate was exposed from 11<sup>h</sup> 38<sup>m</sup> to 14<sup>h</sup> 49<sup>m</sup>. Only one meteor trail is shown, and that one is faint, about one-half degree long. The position of the center of the trail is approximately  $\alpha = 2^h 59.7^m$ ,  $\delta = +51^\circ 10'$ . The time of the meteor's appearance was 11<sup>h</sup> 57<sup>m</sup> 43<sup>s</sup>. Several other meteors were timed, some of which were within the field of the plate, but were too faint to leave any trace. This shower seems to have steadily diminished since its maximum in 1894, as there have certainly been fewer this year than in 1895.

A. L. COLTON AND C. D. PERRINE.

MT. HAMILTON, August 23, 1896.

#### PARTIAL LUNAR ECLIPSE OF AUGUST 22, 1896.

Light clouds interfered somewhat about the time of second contact, but cleared away soon after and remained clear to the end. The first darkening certainly detected was at 8<sup>h</sup> 35<sup>m</sup>. The Moon entered shadow at 9<sup>h</sup> 23<sup>m</sup> 31<sup>s</sup>, and left the shadow at 12<sup>h</sup> 31<sup>m</sup> 50<sup>s</sup> P. S. T. The obscured part of the disc was quite bright, the more prominent markings being easily visible. The Earth's shadow was a bright copper color near the center and shaded to a greenish tinge at the edges. The penumbra showed a light pink color.

C. D. PERRINE.

MT. HAMILTON, August 23, 1896.

#### ASTEROID NO. 341 = CALIFORNIA.

Professor MAX WOLF, Director of the Astrophysical Observatory of Heidelberg, has discovered many asteroids, among them No. 341 on September 25, 1892. Wishing to commemorate his visit to our State in 1893, and perhaps desiring to enter a good-humored protest against an article on the Nomenclature of the Asteroids in these *Publications*, Volume VIII, page 28, he has named this planet *California*. Californians will be glad to acknowledge the courtesy of this baptism.

E. S. H.

#### GIFT OF A PLANE-MIRROR OF SPECULUM METAL TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY BY THE DAUGHTERS OF THE LATE WILLIAM LASSELL, F. R. S.

Through the kindness of the daughters of the late WILLIAM LASSELL, F. R. S., the Lick Observatory is now the possessor of the plane speculum-metal mirror "A" used at Malta with the four-foot reflector. The mirror is oval, about five by seven

inches. A memorandum in Mr. LASSELL's own handwriting accompanies it, as follows: "Plane speculum A retouched on "Machine, 21st June, 1875. Examined with 3 in. Telescope "and power 115. Defines Dial, name and small figures perfectly. "On distant objects requires the smallest possible lengthening of "focus; therefore slightly convex."

This mirror is a valued addition to our collection, not only for its own excellence, but also as a part of the great reflector constructed by Mr. LASSELL for his second expedition to Malta\* which had such a memorable history. EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

LICK OBSERVATORY, August 17, 1896.

#### ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS.

A telegram was sent to the Harvard College Observatory Friday, August 28th, at 8:05 A.M., to announce that Professor HUSSEY observed a bright prominence on the terminator of *Mars* August 27th, at 16<sup>h</sup> 45<sup>m</sup> P. S. T.†

#### ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS (*A Correction*).

In an extract quoted on page 191, No. 50 of these *Publications* from the Report of Mr. TEBBUTT'S Observatory for 1895, the following sentence occurs: "It is much to be regretted that beyond the original announcement of this comet [1895, IV. PERRINE] no further particulars were cabled to Australia."

A letter received from Professor KREUTZ states that this is a mistake, as a second telegram containing very good elements (by Professor LAMP), and a four-day ephemeris from December 13th to December 25th, was sent from Kiel to Melbourne Observatory, the central station for Australia, on the 8th of December. This telegram probably did not reach Mr. TEBBUTT.‡

We cheerfully comply with the request of Professor KREUTZ to publish this explanation, showing that the central station at Kiel was not responsible for the failure in the distribution of this intelligence. THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

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\* See *Memoirs* R. A. S., Vol. XXXVI, 1867.

† Such prominences were first discovered at the Lick Observatory in 1890, and in 1892 and 1894 they were regularly observed at Mount Hamilton, Nice, and Flagstaff. They have been looked for during August, 1896, and first appeared as above. E. S. H.

‡ A late letter from Professor KREUTZ (September 3) notifies that this telegram did not reach Melbourne.